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*Perkins*  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniele CASALINI, a citizen of Italy

For:: SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR THIS,  
AND USE OF THE SAME

Perkins, Smith & Cohen  
One Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 854-4000

TO: Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This amendment is presented with the application as filed to reduce the number of (deemed) claims and filing fee and for adjustment with U.S. format.

**CLAIMS**

*Next*  
Claim 4, line 1, change "; one of claims 1 to 4" to -- claim 1 --.

Claim 6, line, after "is" insert --selected from the group consisting of -- and change "and/or" to -- and --.

Claim 9, lines 1-2, change "one of the claims 1 to 8" to -- claim 1 --.

Claim 12, lines 1-2, change "one of the claims 1 to 11" to -- claim 1 --.

Claim 16, line 1, change "one of the claims 12-15" to -- claim 12 --.

Claim 17, change "one of the claims 12-16" to -- claim 12 --.

*ad*  
Claim 19, lines 1-2, change "one of the claims 1 to 11" to -- claim 1 -- and in line 3, add at the beginning -- a material selected from the class consisting of -- and in the last line change "and/or" to -- and --.

Claim 20, lines 1 to 2, change "one of the claims 1 to 11" to -- claim 11 --.

If any questions remain, please call Applicant's attorney, collect, at the number given above. If any sums are owed due to claim adjustments, please debit or credit Deposit Account 03-2410, order 12707-3.

Respectfully submitted,  
DANIELE CASALINI, Applicant

Dated: July 17, 2000

By:

*[Signature]*  
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Attorney for Applicant